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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 15 September 1994 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I wish to bring to the attention of the General Assembly for its early consideration 1/ a decision of the Economic and Social Council.

During its annual session held in Geneva from 8 to 16 June 1994, the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) adopted the attached decision 94/12 on the Office for Project Services.

In paragraph 5 of decision 94/12, the Executive Board "recommends to the General Assembly that, instead of the merger proposed in Governing Council decision 93/42 of 18 June 1993, the Office for Project Services should become a separate and identifiable entity in a form that does not create a new agency and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and other operational entities, whose administrative support, including that relating to financial and personnel matters, will continue to be provided by UNDP and that the Office should continue to work through the UNDP field network".

In its decision 94/284, adopted on 26 July 1994, the Economic and Social Council decided to recommend that the General Assembly approve the recommendation contained in decision 94/12 on the Office for Project Services.

Subject to the approval of the General Assembly of the recommendation contained in paragraph 5 of decision 94/12, a report prepared in accordance with paragraph 10 of decision 94/12 will be considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on 26 and 27 September 1994 and

subsequently by the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA at its third regular session from 6 to 10 October 1994.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER, AM

Notes

1/ In order for the General Assembly to consider this matter, it will be necessary to reopen item 12 of the agenda of the forty-eighth session.

ANNEX

Decision 94/12. Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the Secretary-General's intention to strengthen the coordinating and central funding roles of the United Nations Development Programme in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199, and other relevant resolutions and to ensure that the Office for Project Services will undertake implementation rather than funding activities;

2. Recognizes the need for a self-financing Office for Project Services, which should become a separate and identifiable entity, without the establishment of a separate administrative apparatus;

3. Stresses the importance of OPS continuing to operate within the United Nations development system and not becoming a new agency;

4. Underlines the need to enhance further the role of the Executive Board in providing overall policy guidance for and supervision of OPS;

5. Recommends to the General Assembly that, instead of the merger proposed in Governing Council decision 93/42 of 18 June 1993, the Office for Project Services should become a separate and identifiable entity in a form that does not create a new agency and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and other operational entities, whose administrative support, including that relating to financial and personnel matters, will continue to be provided by UNDP and that the Office should continue to work through the UNDP field network;

6. Agrees in principle to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish, within existing resources, a Management Coordinating Committee for the Office for Project Services in order to address certain perceived conflicts of interest between the coordinating and implementing roles of the United Nations Development Programme, subject to consideration of a report to be prepared by the Administrator in consultation with the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services, on its precise role and functions at its third regular session in 1994;

7. Endorses the Secretary-General's recommendation that the Committee would consist of:

Chairman: The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Members: The Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management

The Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services

Secretary: The Executive Director of the Office for Project Services;

8. Decides that, subject to paragraph 6 of the present decision, the Executive Director will report to the Secretary-General and the Executive Board through the Management Coordinating Committee;

9. Agrees also in principle to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish, within existing resources, an Office for Project Services Users Advisory Group, under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services, with the responsibility of ensuring that the Office for Project Services is fully aware of the concerns of United Nations organizations and others who utilize its services and with the responsibility of making appropriate recommendations;

10. Requests the Executive Director of the Office for Project Services, in collaboration with the Administrator and subject to the approval of the recommendation in paragraph 5 above by the General Assembly, to report to the Executive Board no later than at its third regular session through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on ways of establishing the Office for Project Services as a separate and identifiable entity and of increasing the transparency of its operations, including proposals concerning:

(a) The precise role and composition of the Office for Project Services Users Advisory Group;

(b) The establishment of a separate contracts committee;

(c) Any necessary revision of the financial and procurement rules of the United Nations Development Programme as they apply to the Office for Project Services in order to ensure the efficiency of the Office and to enable it to work in a businesslike manner;

(d) More transparent accounting procedures for the Office for Project Services, including improved auditing;

(e) The responsibility of the Office for Project Services in personnel matters;

(f) Ways of ensuring that the Office for Project Services perform implementation functions and that it operate on a self-financing basis.